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Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 10, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 5 totaled an estimated 16.5 billion ton-miles, 4.9 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The 1980 week included the Good Friday holiday which fell later in 1979.

Cumulative volume for the first 14 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 245 billion ton-miles, 8.8 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 5 totaled 418,646 cars, 10.2 percent below 1979, and 9.1 percent lower than the preceding non-holiday week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 15.0 percent in the East, 3.9 percent in the South, and 10.3 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 18 of the 21 commodity groups declined. However, grain loadings increased by 2,260 cars, or 9.5 percent, coal was up 6,156 cars, or 6.3 percent and nonmetallic minerals showed a gain of 1,088 cars, or 8.8 percent. All of the 21 groups were down from the preceding non-holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 29 totaled 35,505 cars, down 10.5 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 64,939 trailers and/or containers, 9.1 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 13 weeks of the year was 438,529 cars, 2.0 percent lower than last year, and 795,170 trailers and/or containers, virtually the same as 1979.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/5/80.

	Loadings in Week ended April 5, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week		
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	26,169	I	2,260	9.5	D	1,580	5.7
Other farm products	3,101	D	330	9.6	D	458	12.9
Metallic ores	25,112	D	4,106	14.1	D	2,268	8.3
Coal	104,264	I	6,156	6.3	D	8,656	7.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,904	D	3,778	22.6	D	506	3.8
Nonmetallic minerals	13,497	I	1,088	8.8	D	1,103	7.6
Grain mill products	15,008	D	2,952	16.4	D	2,356	13.6
Food and kindred products	16,846	D	2,179	11.5	D	2,789	14.2
Primary forest products	18,051	D	2,317	11.4	D	1,242	6.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,465	D	3,768	30.8	D	1,163	12.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,753	D	1,614	7.2	D	2,150	9.4
Chemicals and allied products	27,538	D	5,720	17.2	D	2,803	9.2
Petroleum products	5,702	D	859	13.1	D	251	4.2
Stone, clay and glass products	15,093	D	3,995	20.9	D	838	5.3
Coke	5,993	D	2,261	27.4	D	765	11.3
Metals and products	18,463	D	3,605	16.3	D	1,620	8.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	15,997	D	8,513	34.7	D	3,747	19.0
Waste and scrap materials	12,502	D	2,350	15.8	D	1,709	12.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,362	D	1,390	10.9	D	1,459	11.4
All other carloads	41,629	D	7,063	14.5	D	4,664	10.1
LCL traffic	197	D	114	36.7	D	25	11.3
Total Cars Loaded	418,646	D	47,410	10.2	D	42,152	9.1
Corresponding week of 1979	466,056						

	1980	1979	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (14 weeks)	6,158,440	5,986,635	I	2.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
13 weeks cumulative	228.3	207.6	I	10.0
Week ended April 5	16.5	17.3	I	4.9
14 weeks cumulative	244.7	224.9	I	8.8

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